

Appl. No. 10/014,893  
Amdt. dated July 23, 2007  
Reply to Final Office Action mailed May 23, 2007

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This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings of claims in the instant application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request for a resource stored on said resource server peer group, said resource request including, at time of first receipt of said resource request itself from a user, a request for said resource and a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network so that said at least one key is included in said resource request; and

a resource identifier included in said resource request, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing said resource by said resource server peer group when said resource server peer group matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource so that said receiving, said providing and said matching are performed on said resource server peer group without accessing another server outside said resource server peer group.

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2. (Currently Amended) A method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request for a resource stored on said resource server peer group, said resource request including, at time of first receipt of said resource request itself from a user, a request for said resource and a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network so that said at least one key is included in said resource request, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier included in said resource request, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing said resource by said resource server peer group when said resource server peer group matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource so that said receiving, said providing and said matching are performed on said resource server peer group without accessing another server outside said resource server peer group.

3. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by

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the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request for a resource stored on said resource server peer group, said resource request including, at time of first receipt of said resource request itself from a user, a request for said resource and a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource on said data communications network so that said at least one key is included in said resource request; and

a resource identifier included in said resource request, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing said resource by said resource server peer group when said resource server peer group matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource so that said receiving, said providing and said matching are performed on said resource server peer group without accessing another server outside said resource server peer group.

4. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the method comprising:

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receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request for a resource stored on said resource server peer group, said resource request including, at time of first receipt of said resource request itself from a user, a request for said resource and a rights key credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key providing access to at least one resource on said data communications network so that said at least one key is included in said resource request, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier included in said resource request, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key, wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

providing said resource by said resource server peer group when said resource server peer group matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource so that said receiving, said providing and said matching are performed on said resource server peer group without accessing another server outside said resource server peer group.

5. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling user access to distributed resources on a data communications network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, by a resource server peer group, a resource request for a resource stored on said resource server peer group, said resource request including, at

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time of first receipt of said resource request itself from  
a user, a request for said resource and a rights key  
credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key to provide access to a resource  
on said data communications network so that said at  
least one key is included in said resource request;  
and

a resource identifier included in said resource  
request, said resource identifier comprising a  
resource server peer group ID and a randomized user  
ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying  
said resource server peer group, said resource server  
peer group comprising at least one server that  
maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID  
and said at least one key, wherein said randomized  
user ID is associated with an identity of a user  
thereby protecting said identity; and

means for providing said resource by said resource  
server peer group when said resource server peer group  
matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set  
of identifiers associated with said resource so that said  
receiving, said providing and said matching are performed  
on said resource server peer group without accessing  
another server outside said resource server peer group.

6. (Currently Amended) An apparatus for controlling user  
access to distributed resources on a data communications  
network, the apparatus comprising:

means for receiving, by a resource server peer group,  
a resource request for a resource stored on said resource  
server peer group, said resource request including, at  
time of first receipt of said resource request itself from  
a user, a request for said resource and a rights key  
credential, said rights key credential comprising:

at least one key, each of said at least one key  
providing access to at least one resource on said

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data communications network so that said at least one key is included in said resource request, each of said at least one resource stored on a separate secure device; and

a resource identifier included in said resource request, said resource identifier comprising a resource server peer group ID and a randomized user ID, said resource server peer group ID identifying said resource server peer group, said resource server peer group comprising at least one server that maintains a mapping between said randomized user ID and said at least one key; wherein said randomized user ID is associated with an identity of a user thereby protecting said identity; and

means for providing said resource by said resource server peer group when said resource server peer group matches said at least one key with an identifier in a set of identifiers associated with said resource so that said receiving, said providing and said matching are performed on said resource server peer group without accessing another server outside said resource server peer group.

7. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein said rights key credential further comprises a nested credential referring to at least one credential relating to a resource delivery mechanism.

8. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 8 wherein said providing said resource further comprises using said resource delivery mechanism.

9. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 2 wherein said rights key credential further comprises a nested credential referring to at least one credential relating to a resource delivery mechanism.

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10. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 9 wherein said providing said resource further comprises using said resource delivery mechanism.